

## Master's Dissertation II (H001900)

Due to Covid 19, the education and evaluation methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)  
Credits 20.0 Study time 600 h Contact hrs 90.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2020-2021

A (year)	Dutch	Gent	master's dissertation	90.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Behavioural Sciences (main subject Educational Sciences)	20	A
Master of Science in Educational Sciences (main subject Clinical Special Needs Education and Disability Studies)	20	A
Master of Science in Educational Sciences (main subject Pedagogy and Educational Sciences)	20	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Scientific manuscript, methodological elaboration based on a formation of a pedagogic/education problem, scientific research, reflective practitioner, scientific reporting, APA-guidelines.

Position of the course

This course contributes to the following competence areas:

- to act ethically in an educational setting, based on specialised and integrated learning outcomes, in an unknown and uncertain situation without clearly described conditions and with an explicit final responsibility;
- to work in a team on educational theory construction, practice and policy;
- to design, to carry out and to report on scientific research related to an educational problem definition.

The given competence areas are to be realised based on specialised and integrated learning outcomes in unknown situations without concrete conditions and with explicit final responsibility. The competence areas are situated in the context as described in 'content'.

Contents

The master thesis is a written and systematic report of the way in which the student has approached a complex educational theme.

The student is expected to follow a complete research cycle. On the base of his/her problem definition en research questions, a grounded choice is to be made for a research approach (e.g., a narrative study, a review of the literature, an experimental design, a design based study, a case study, an action research study, ...).

The report is to be written in a technical-scientific language, and in line with specific guidelines for the research discipline (e.g., APA).

The report embraces the following:

- context and problem statement,
- research questions,
- theoretical and/or conceptual base (based on a study of the literature),
- the research design (argumentation as to the choice for a research approach, procedure, if relevant instruments, sample, analysis procedure),
- a results section, a discussion section (incorporating a discussion of the results in the light of theoretical reflections and other empirical studies, implications of the results, directions for future research, discussion of the weaknesses/limitations of the

- research, directions for future research),
- the conclusions and an elaborated reference list.

The master thesis is in line with the basic assumption of the educational sciences program: developing a pedagogue as a 'reflective practitioner'. The final aim – as to the research output – is to develop a well written manuscript (in Dutch or English; but exceptions will be allowed based on a formal decision of the Faculty board). The manuscript should be developed as an article, to be submitted to a scientific or professional journal in the field of the educational sciences. Reference journals are: Learning and Instruction, Paedagogica Historica, Exceptional Children, ... .

#### Initial competences

bachelor in educational sciences or a certificate of a linking or preparatory course, meeting the prerequisites in terms of the required option, major, minor or that the required subjects were included in the former study track;  
 Research methods II  
 Qualitative research methods and interpretation

#### Final competences

- 1 To interpret the ethical dimension of educational processes.
- 2 To apply adequately empirico-analytic, interpretational, and action-oriented research methods.
- 3 To apply oral and written communication techniques.
- 4 To conduct a study of a specific problem independently in a methodologically justified manner.
- 5 To look up and select theoretical and empirical knowledge (source material) in function of an educational presentation of a problem or action situation.
- 6 To look up, compile, interpret, integrate, and present scientific information systematically.
- 7 To evaluate scientific research methods in function of an adequate research act in the educational context in which the problem is situated.

#### Conditions for credit contract

This course unit cannot be taken via a credit contract

#### Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

#### Teaching methods

Master's dissertation, self-reliant study activities

#### Learning materials and price

[Regulation](http://www.fsappw.ugent.be/index.php?position=9x3x0) concerning master thesis is available on-line: <http://www.fsappw.ugent.be/index.php?position=9x3x0>

#### References

#### Course content-related study coaching

- by appointment.  
 Promotor gives individual feedback.  
 The student is responsible for developing a planning and is requested to report on this progress from time to time in the form of written syntheses submitted for discussion to the supervisor. Individual and/or collective feedback is organised around these reports.

#### Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation

#### Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Oral examination, participation, assignment

#### Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Oral examination, participation, assignment

#### Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

#### Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

not applicable

#### Extra information on the examination methods

- deposit of master thesis with oral discussion;

- specific evaluation criteria are available for the students in the master dissertation regulations available at: <http://www.fsappw.ugent.be/index.php?position=9x3x0>.

#### Calculation of the examination mark

Students who eschew one or more parts of the evaluation can no longer pass the course. Final scores will be reduced to the highest non-deliberative quotation (7/20) in case the final score is higher.